

New Alfalfa Weevil Control Methods Noted By Entomologists

New recommendations for controlling the alfalfa weevil, one of the most troublesome insect pests in this area, have been announced by entomologists at the University of Delaware.

In a bulletin outlining control methods, Donald MacCreary and Dr. Dale F. Bray point out that the alfalfa weevil is a major problem in alfalfa production. Severe weevil damage can cause an almost total loss of the crop, but the pest can be safely controlled with proper use of one of the recommended insecticides. Timing is important; effectiveness of the insecticide is reduced greatly if it is applied before weevil larvae appear.

The insecticide recommendations are based on both the safety and the effectiveness of the chemicals when used properly. Don't depend on written recommendations or labels on insecticide containers that are several years old, the authors advise. There may have been restrictive changes since these were printed. It is particularly important for farmers to observe the minimum interval between treatment and harvest because it is the growers' responsibility to avoid illegal residues on the harvested crop.

MacCreary notes that weevil control by flaming alfalfa fields, before spring growth begins, is still in the experimental stage in this area. The method offers promise, he says, but it

depends on the development and availability of suitable equipment. If growers are interested in flaming for weevil control, they should try it only on a portion of their acreage.

The bulletin, "Delaware's Recommendations for Alfalfa Weevil Control," lists the kinds and amounts of insecticides to use, along with suggestions for timing and method of application.

Stephens Reappointed State Consv. Comm.

HARRISBURG - Donald R. Stephens, of Belle Vernon R3, Fayette County, has been reappointed as a member of the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. The nomination by Governor Raymond P. Shafer was approved by the State Senate. Stephens was originally appointed in June 1964 and is one of three farmer members of the Commission.



Paul M. Covell

Associated With Babcock Hatchery

Paul M. Covell has been named sales and service representative for Babcock Hatchery, Inc., Lititz, and will cover southwestern Pennsylvania and Maryland.

He comes here from New Hampshire with 27 years of experience in the poultry industry. He has had experience in all phases of the business, including farming, laboratories, hatchery and pharmaceuticals. His home is at 3 Karyl Lane, York R1.

Plow Down Corn

(Continued from Page 17)

in May head for the potato fields. Young corn has a sap poisonous to young borers so they can develop only on a different crop. Unfortunately, by the middle of the season, corn loses its toxic substance, according to Bray. From that time on, it is subject to borer damage.

It sounds as though the toxin in corn would offer a good biological method to control corn borers. However, as yet, the toxin costs too much to extract from the corn, so it can't be used.

The borer was imported from Europe; unfortunately, the natural enemies which help control the pest there won't live in this country. According to Bray, entomologists introduced an excellent natural parasite—a fly resembling the common house fly—but it died out within two years.

Biological control experiments are continuing, but so far they offer little promise. Cultural practices and chemicals are the only effective control methods available. Plow down all corn stubble by May 1 to destroy as many as possible of the overwintering borers.

New Idea Rep. Attends Service Training Sch.

Roy H. Buch, representing Chester K. Long, Akron, Avco New Idea dealer in this area, has just returned from a two-day training meeting on servicing New Idea's Uni-System line of interchangeable self-propelled harvesting equipment.

The meeting was one of 100 regional service training sessions which are being conducted by Avco New Idea through May 2, for service personnel from Avco New Idea dealerships throughout the United States and Canada.

Buch was awarded a framed certificate and a "New Idea Trained for Service" Swiss embroidered emblem, which he can display on his shirt, jacket or shop coat.

DISEASE-FREE PLANTS CAN BE PRODUCED

To produce disease-free plants, start with disease-free or treated seed. Use sterile media or sterilized soil, clean containers, tools, and water. Producing disease-free plants requires a good control program, says Allen H. Bauer, extension plant pathologist.

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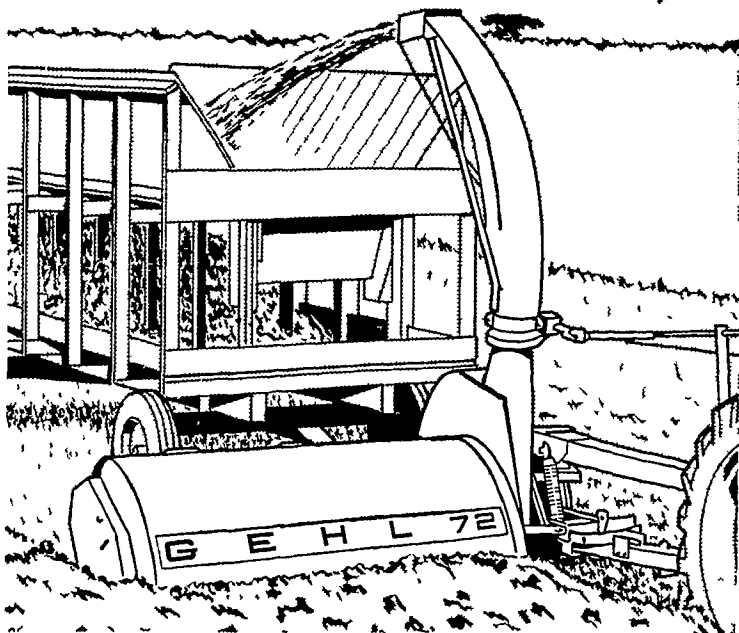
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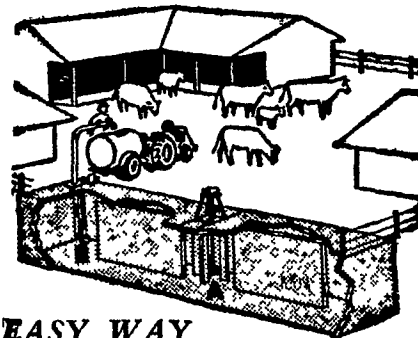
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